

Transforming Care of Sexual Assault Victims through Telemedicine

Kristina Rose
Deputy Director
Office for Victims of Crime
U.S. Department of Justice



Transforming The Care of Sexual Assault Survivors

Today's Presentation

- Office for Victims of Crime
- Sexual Assault
- National TeleNursing Center

OVC's Mission

- Enhance the Nation's capacity to assist crime victims
- Provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices
- Promote justice and healing for all victims of crime

Victims of Crime Act

This landmark legislation:

- Established OVC in 1984
- Created the Crime Victims Fund
- Supports programs and services that focus on helping victims in the immediate aftermath of crime

OVC Serves All Victims of Crime

- Homicide (survivors)
- Rape/Sexual assault
- Domestic violence
- Robbery
- Financial fraud
- Child abuse
- Human trafficking
- Elder abuse
- Hate crimes
- Stalking
- Terrorism or mass violence

Sexual Assault

- 44% of women and 23% of men experience some sort of sexual violence in their lifetime.
- About 1/3 of sexual assault is reported to the police.
- About 6 in 10 victims knew their offender.
- Women are more likely to be victims than men.

Sexual Assault Forensic Exams

- The body as a crime scene
- Conducted by a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) or a sexual assault forensic examiner (SAFE)
- Victim-centered care
- Increases patient satisfaction
- Increases likelihood of prosecution

The Exam

- Swabs
- Trace evidence
- Injuries
- It can take 2-6 hours to complete
- Role of the advocate vs. role of the SANE



Not All Communities Have Access to Forensic Exams

- Many rural and underserved communities lack the resources for SANE programs
- Insufficient experience due to the small number of exams performed
- Victims don't come forward
- Few prosecutions and convictions

Using Telemedicine to Bridge the Gap

- Telemedicine is being used all over the country
- It involves the use of video technology and monitoring equipment
- This approach has been used with child victims of sexual abuse
- Study by University of California-Davis showed positive results

Creation of the



Mission is to:

- Transform the care of sexual assault patients
- Expand access to trained SANEs for populations in remote or underserved areas

Located at Newton-Wellesley Hospital in Massachusetts

Partnerships are Essential!



JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS • JUSTICE FOR ALL

Testing a Solution...

- A competitive solicitation from OVC and NIJ was issued in FY 2012
- Award of \$3.3M made to the MA Dept of Public Health
- MA would subcontract with pilot sites in four types of communities: military, rural, tribal, and correctional
- Process evaluation included as part of the project

Pilot Sites

Three initial pilot sites:

- Naval Hospital at Twenty-Nine Palms, CA (military)
- Hopi Health Center, Arizona (tribal)
- Sutter Lakeside Hospital (rural)

What We Hope to Achieve

For sexual assault patients

- Empowerment to report the assault
- Resources that promote healing
- Increased satisfaction with care

What We Hope to Achieve

For clinicians

- Increased competence and confidence
- Increased satisfaction with clinical practice

For the criminal justice system

- Enhanced quality of evidence
- Higher rates of reporting, prosecution, conviction

What does a TeleNursing Center Look like?



Administration Office ↑

View of the Hospital area ⇨



The Hub

Two private session rooms.

One single and one dual station.



Lighting was added to highlight faces of the TeleNurses.

Sound dampening panels were added to the walls.

Cart at Remote Site



Challenges

- Identifying pilot sites
- State licensure for MA SANEs
- Volume

Cases

- First two cases occurred in May and June
- Case #1: Female patient
- Case #2: Male patient

Thank you!

Kristina Rose

Office for Victims of Crime

Kristina.rose@usdoj.gov

National TeleNursing Center

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/community-health/dvip/violence/sane/telenursing/>